



# Royal Academy of Music.

Principal - Sir A. C. MACKENZIE, Mus.D., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.A.M.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

ANNUAL

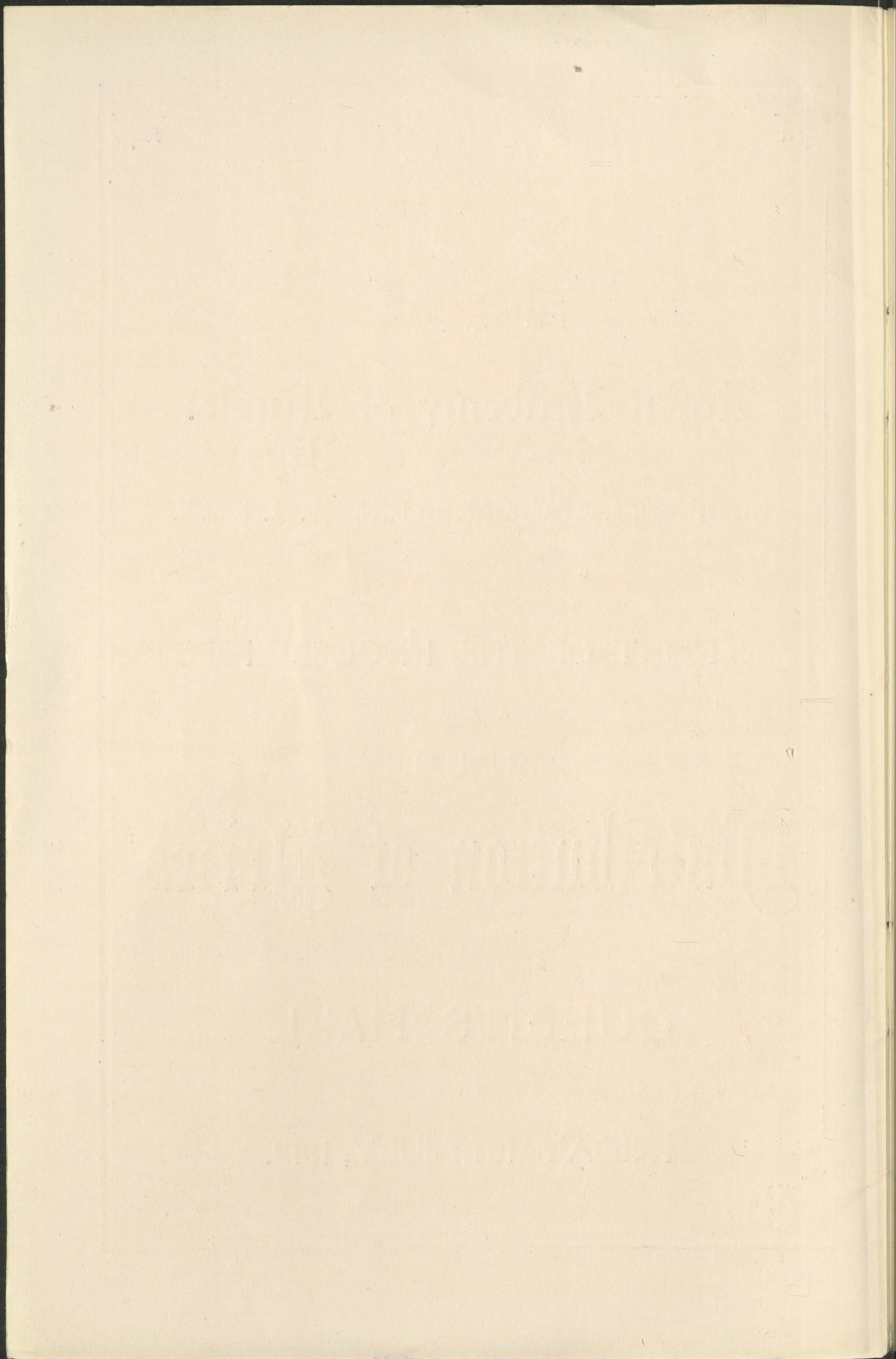
## Distribution of Prizes

AT

QUEEN'S HALL

ON

FRIDAY, 19TH JULY, 1912.







# Royal Academy of Music.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES, 1912.

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THE annual distribution of prizes to pupils of this Institution took place on Friday, 19th July, 1912, by Mrs. Thomas Threlfall, at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. There was a large attendance, among those present being Miss Gordon Scott, Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie (the Principal of the Academy), Lady Mackenzie, Miss Mackenzie, Alderman E. E. Cooper (Chairman of the Committee of Management), Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Charles Rube (Hon. Treasurer), Sir William E. Bigge, Sir Henry Craik (M.P.) and Lady Craik, Mr. H. Entwisle Bury, Sir George Donaldson, Sir James Dewar, Lady Dewar, Mr. Ernest Matthews, Mr. Charles Mortimer, Mr. Walter M. Scott, Mr. Oscar Beringer, Mr. Frederick Corder, Mr. F. G. Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic King, Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Matthay, Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Nicholls, Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Walker, Mr. R. Ward, and Mr. and Mrs. Hans Wessely.

Mrs. Threlfall, who was accompanied by her brother-in-law, Mr. Buzzard, K.C., was received by members of the Governing Bodies and presented with a bouquet of roses by Miss Winifred Lowry. A bouquet was also presented to Mrs. Cooper.



Before the prizes were distributed a short concert was given by the students, the programme of music being as follows :

Cavatina for Violin and Organ (Op. 130) ... .. *Beethoven.*

Variations on a Theme by Tschaikowsky for String

Orchestra ... .. *Arensky.*

The Ensemble Class

(Conducted by Mr. Hans Wessely, Hon. R.A.M.).

“ Morning Song with Hymn to Pan ” and “ Sweet

Content ” (from Six Pastorals for Voices, Strings,

and Pianoforte) ... .. *Walford Davies.*

Misses Dorothy Haywood, Muriel Cooke, Elsie Coram, Ella

Caspers, Muriel Michell and Elaine Scarratt, and

Messrs. Gerald Harris, Ernest Butcher, Constantine Morris,

and Powell Edwards

(Conducted by Mr. Edward Iles, Hon. R.A.M.)

Valse Caprice for Two Pianofortes ... .. *Saint-Saëns.*

Miss Harriet Cohen and Mr. Vivian Langrish

(Accompanist, Mr. Arthur Alexander).

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, who was received with cheers, then delivered an address. He said: Mrs. Threlfall, ladies and gentlemen, probably the most important, certainly the most strenuous and busiest year in the history of the Academy has now reached a successful close—one which has called forth all the energy, force, and activity at the command of everyone connected with its management. During the last vocal item, when they were singing old Dekker's words, “ Sweet content, work apace, honest labour wears a lovely face,” I confess it did appear to me that “ sweet content ” only entered into our souls when the last workman shouldered his basket of tools and honest labour's lovely face took its final departure from York Gate. (Laughter.) When but a few weeks ago His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught conveyed The King's gracious message of congratulation to the Governing Bodies, and honoured us by declaring our new home open, the greatest satisfaction at the completion of a worthy achievement was keenly felt by us all. (Cheers.) My only regret was that so many of our students were, unfortunately, but necessarily, debarred from being present. But they understood that they would themselves have well-nigh filled the concert-room, and have given resounding proof of their pleasure and many a ringing cheer for our illustrious President, who, from across the



seas, sent us the evidence of his continued goodwill and kindly interest. That so hurried a flitting from house-to-house could be accomplished without some dislocation of the customary order of things was hardly to be expected. The marvel remains that we were enabled to re-commence and continue our work at the appointed hour in such comfort and ease. And before I proceed, let me acknowledge that all this would have been impossible but for the unceasing efforts and prudent foresight of our Secretary, Mr. Renaut—(Cheers)—who undertook the burden of responsibility, and successfully wrestled with more obstacles and difficulties than his modesty has ever cared to reveal.

It is usual on these occasions to notify any changes which circumstances may have brought about during the year in the Board of Directors, Committee, or the staff of Professors, and with reference to the first-mentioned body, I have to tell of the welcome advent of the Earl of Malmesbury (cheers), whose family has long been famous for a historically-interesting connection with music—namely, its personal friendship with the great Handel. Unfortunately, I am not permitted to continue in this cheerful strain. In so large a community as ours there is, alas! too often occasion to strike a minor chord. The Academy loses the valuable and kind services of the late Sir John Murray Scott, whose place has been taken by his brother, Mr. Walter Scott. The Committee—nay, the whole Academy—deplored the removal by death of one of its oldest, best-known friends and honoured members, Cavaliere Alberto Randegger, whose personal interest and splendidly effective work here was spread over some thirty-five years. Much too celebrated as a musician, conductor, teacher, and keenest supporter of native music to require any belated word of eulogy from me, we share deepest regret with an exceptionally large number of sorrowing pupils and friends, with whom the memory of this gifted and kindly man remains ever green. The Professors also lost an esteemed colleague by the all too early death of Mr. Henry R. Rose, and we deeply sympathise with his widow in her bereavement. (Hear, hear.) Another vacancy on the Committee occurs by the retirement from among us of a very popular figure in the musical world. Age entitles him to the rest he has so well earned. Among the earliest students of the Academy, his love for the old School has ever been in active evidence. The



“John Thomas” (Welsh) scholarship was his own creation, and will continue to benefit his young countrymen and women for time to come; and while we cordially wish the famous Harpist years of comfort and happiness, the Academy sincerely thanks him for his long and constant endeavours on its behalf. (Cheers.) All this gives pause to remember several once very familiar faces which have disappeared from the scene on which they played prominent parts during many consecutive years of great usefulness. Doubtless these now aged friends still think of us occasionally in the evening of life. I am reminded, among others, of our friend, Mr. Adolph Schloesser, who up to quite recent days took a personally active share at our Annual Examination. And I think also of the amiable veteran, probably the oldest musician in this country, Mr. Wilhelm Kuhe, whose honourable and exceptionally long career and connection with the Academy is not likely to be forgotten by any of us. Of the eminent English musician, Dr. William Cummings, who left us to take upon himself still higher and more onerous duties at the Guildhall School of Music, I can only say that his withdrawal from the service of music is, I hope, yet far distant, since his present activity, mature experience, and usefulness in it can only be described as phenomenal. I also regret to mention the retirement of our friend, Sir Paolo Tosti, who leaves us only in consequence of his return to Italy. These gaps have been filled by three gentlemen whose names, I am sure, will meet with your hearty approval. Mr. G. F. Fitch, who, besides bestowing other smaller gifts very soon after taking his seat, was the bearer of the generous sum of £100 towards the Building Fund from the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, of which he is the honoured Master. (Cheers.) My colleagues, Mr. Frederic King and Dr. Henry W. Richards, now give us the benefit of their advice in their respective departments, and will, I daresay, also keep me generally informed of my own ignorance in other matters. (Laughter.) To the staff of Professors have been added three names which we are all glad to welcome—Miss Dora Matthey and Mr. Herbert Fryer (pianoforte), and Mr. Plunket Greene, the well-known vocalist. (Cheers.)

The new educational scheme of which I spoke last year, called the “Special course for Teachers,” with its elaborately-devised series of lecture-lessons given by eminent experts, was duly



initiated, and is now in full operation, and each portion of its curriculum is being carefully watched with a view to profiting by any experience we may have gained during its first trial. None may say that at the present moment the education of children is being neglected. The elaborate plans now laid in many places to perfect the system of their training sometimes fills me with apprehension, not so much for them as for the teachers of the future, who would seem to be expected to develop into something little short of a separate species of supermen and women. The remark is not intended to convey the least touch of levity. (Laughter.) So much is being done for the young that the greatly-augmented demands made upon the teacher, and what ought to be an equivalent remuneration, are easily being lost sight of. I am thinking not only of those engaged in the higher branches of educational work, but also of the patient music-governess, whose own education is in consequence becoming very much more expensive, while her fees by no means show any signs of rising to the level of the increasingly-numerous qualifications she is being called upon to exhibit. And I frankly think that the time is come when a general recognition should be made—when something should also be done in favour of the teacher. The situation is becoming year-by-year more one-sided and unfair. Reverting to the “clou” of this annual function—namely, the distribution of our non-competitive awards, and also to certain “spoils of the chase” which belong to those who have brought them down by superior marksmanship, there is only one prize which calls for special mention by myself, since the sometimes rather perplexing privilege of bestowing it is mine. In the course of time it has come to be considered the prize of the year; and when I say that it has to be handed to “that student who shall have distinguished himself, or herself, in general excellence, assiduity, and industry during the past year,” you will admit that the “Judgment of Paris” and Solomon’s famous decision were mere trifles in comparison. (Laughter.) Seriously, we can boast a large number of keen and ardently-working students here, and during this exceptional year some of their very best qualities and talents have exhibited themselves in a most agreeable manner. My selection falls upon a young man who has been with us for a number of years, who is known to all as an accomplished musician, a brilliant pianist, and promising composer; one who, furthermore, devotes



without hesitation much of his own valuable time to playing accompaniments for his fellow-students whenever he is asked to do so, and in this particular art he also shines. I award the "Dove Prize" to Mr. Arthur Alexander, of New Zealand. (Cheers.) I take it that very few institutions, here or abroad, are so well furnished with incentives in the shape of scholarships, exhibitions, and prizes, as ours. And no year passes without some addition to the already long list. To-day a gentleman whose valuable assistance on the Building Committee is so much appreciated, Mr. Edward W. Nicholls, declares his intention of giving a prize of ten guineas to be competed for at the next Annual Examination by female pianists. (Cheers.) I ought, perhaps, to warn him that they are very numerous here, and might be inclined to follow the fashion of becoming demonstrative before he leaves this hall. (Laughter.) The late Mr. Bonamy Dobree's prize of ten guineas for 'cellists will henceforth be given by Mrs. Ferdinand M. Huth, and for that generous action we have to thank Mr. Arthur F. Hill (Master of the Worshipful Company of Musicians), who suggested to the lady its continuation, and to whom we are also indebted in many other directions. A valuable violin bow, very kindly offered by Mr. J. Arthur Beare, is awarded for the first time to Edgar Hawke. (Cheers.) Just one other little present to the School I may mention. To be sure, it will make a noise out of all proportion to its value. The old Academy set of kettledrums, in use since 1826, possess some historic value, since a good many very eminent musicians, who distinguished themselves in after life in totally different directions, have played upon them; in fact, the Academy Drummership has always been accounted a post of honour among its students from the earliest days down to the present moment, and I trust that the happy tradition may never be allowed to fade out. As the old instruments have become—like many other things in music—out-of-date—a set of three new Timpani will now be substituted, and as these are made by Messrs. Hawkes, and of the very latest scientific construction, I presume that, in this respect at least, they are not likely to be beaten. (Laughter.) I hope that an even larger drum-roll of players will stand behind the instruments, which I ask to be allowed to offer in commemoration of June 22, 1912.

With this, the small chronicle of events which belongs to this pleasant category, comes to an end. It presents, however, only



a limited account of the happenings of the year, and mention of the most gracious gift of all must be kept back for a very few moments. The great work of the School has been carried along steadily, and with but few departures from the ordinary course. The obstructions have now entirely disappeared, and with great relief we can now return to normal conditions. We had, unfortunately, to discontinue those most useful and instructive fortnightly concerts which provide us with a more exact knowledge of the talent and progress of our students, and every Professor will rejoice at their permanent resumption. So also in regard to the performance of the Operatic and Dramatic Classes, for which the necessary and more promising stage-arrangements have already been built and tested. During the first couple of terms we were compelled to seek shelter for the orchestral rehearsals in other and smaller places away from the Academy altogether, and in that connection I would compliment my players on the regularity of their attendance and maintained interest under trying and "wintry" conditions. Our Orchestral Concerts on this platform neither suffered or deteriorated in the least degree. In future two Chamber Concerts will be given in our own particularly well-adapted, acoustically-perfect Concert Room during each term. (Cheers.) The number of aspiring performers will therefore be doubled. All this reminds me once more of the last completed section of our new home, and with a final reference to it I shall conclude. Whatever petty deprivations and small trials of patience we may have had to bear, it was well worth waiting for. What particular portion of Rome took the longest time to erect we are not informed, but one sympathises with the underlying touch of irritability which is preserved in the old saying about that City not having been "built in a day." In our own case the Concert Hall gave cause for more thought in view of the varied purposes which it has to serve, and the curiously microscopic supervision to which its details are subjected by those in superior authority, than any other part of the whole structure. But I certainly can point to one highly essential item in it—one which was ready much in advance of its time—and that is the splendid instrument, a building in itself, placed there by the generosity and goodwill of the lady who honours us by her presence here to-day. (Cheers.) It is difficult for me to speak about the touching motive which



prompted her to do so, even more so to refer to my old and dear friend, her late husband, whose memory that instrument perpetuates in the School to which he gave so much energy and ever-kindly thought for nearly twenty years. (Cheers.) I have frequently alluded to that, but always with the same deep and warm feelings which the recollection of his unique amiability and goodness invariably brings back to me. Mrs. Threlfall has never allowed the chain of interest and sympathy between us to be broken. Already the most generous donor of a large annual sum of money and a liberal Scholarship, she has now relieved the School of, perhaps, the heaviest burden which must inevitably have fallen upon it by presenting the magnificent Memorial Organ (by Messrs. Norman & Beard), which is to serve many generations of students in the making of the "Solemn music" which Milton describes as "that undisturbed song of pure concent," and all the members of this Corporate Body—wherever they may be—join the Directorate and Committee in offering their most grateful thanks for her superb gift to the Academy. (Cheers.) I shall now ask Mrs. Threlfall to come nearer to us. My friend, the Curator, on the occasion of the opening ceremony, let loose a perfect reservoir of sound, in which ten choirs sang in fifty parts. We shall now hear more than 500 voices raised in her welcome. (Cheers.)

As Mrs. Threlfall, accompanied by Mr. Buzzard, K.C., and the members of the Governing Bodies, left her reserved seat for the platform, she was accorded an enthusiastic welcome. She then presented the awards and prizes to the successful students.

MR. ALDERMAN COOPER, at the close of the ceremony, said: Ladies and gentlemen, I have had the privilege on several previous occasions of proposing a vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have kindly honoured us by presenting the prizes at our Annual Distribution, members of the Royal Family and others; but I will say this, that on no occasion have I done so with greater pleasure than to-day. Mr. Threlfall's name brings only the most charming recollections to everyone who knew him, and I feel it is especially fitting that I, his successor as Chairman of the Committee of Management of the Royal Academy of Music, should propose a vote of thanks to the widow of him who took such a deep interest in all that concerns the welfare of this Institution. (Cheers.) I must refer to what Sir Alexander has already



mentioned—namely, that although nothing was wanted to keep the memory of Thomas Threlfall green in the heart of everyone who knew him, yet Mrs. Threlfall had given a most magnificent Organ as a permanent memorial of her husband, and I trust that every student who uses this Organ may be imbued with that love of music, the highest and the best, which was characteristic of him to whose memory it has been given. In your name, in the name of the Governing body, and of the students of the Royal Academy of Music, I now propose a most hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Threlfall for so graciously giving away the prizes. (Cheers.)

SIR WILLIAM BIGGE: Ladies and gentlemen, it is a very great honour and pleasure to me to be permitted to second the vote of thanks which has just been proposed to Mrs. Threlfall. It is particularly gratifying to me to be allowed to second it, as I succeeded Mr. Threlfall as Chairman of that great Institution which is the ultimate sign of the unity of purpose and of good fellowship of the two Imperial centres of musical education in England—I mean the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and of the Royal College of Music. Mr. Threlfall had indeed done a great work there, and if I in any way succeed in carrying on that work, I am sure I shall feel a very proud man. It is also a great pleasure to me to second this vote of thanks, seeing that it has been proposed by my friend, Mr. Alderman Cooper, who succeeded Mr. Threlfall as Chairman of the Committee of Management, and to whom the Academy, from the Directors right down to the newest joined student, owe such a very great debt of gratitude for all he has done. (Cheers.) I should like, if I may be allowed, to say that when the history of the Royal Academy of Music during the reign of King Edward VII. comes to be written, three names among the constellation of names that were truly honoured will stand out in the greatest relief—I mean Mr. Threlfall, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and Mr. Alderman Cooper. (Cheers.) I beg to second the vote of thanks. (Cheers.)

MR. ALDERMAN COOPER: After your applause, I think it is hardly necessary to put the vote of thanks to you, but formally I will ask those who agree with it to signify in the usual way.

The proposal was carried amid cheers, and Mrs. Threlfall rose and bowed her acknowledgments.

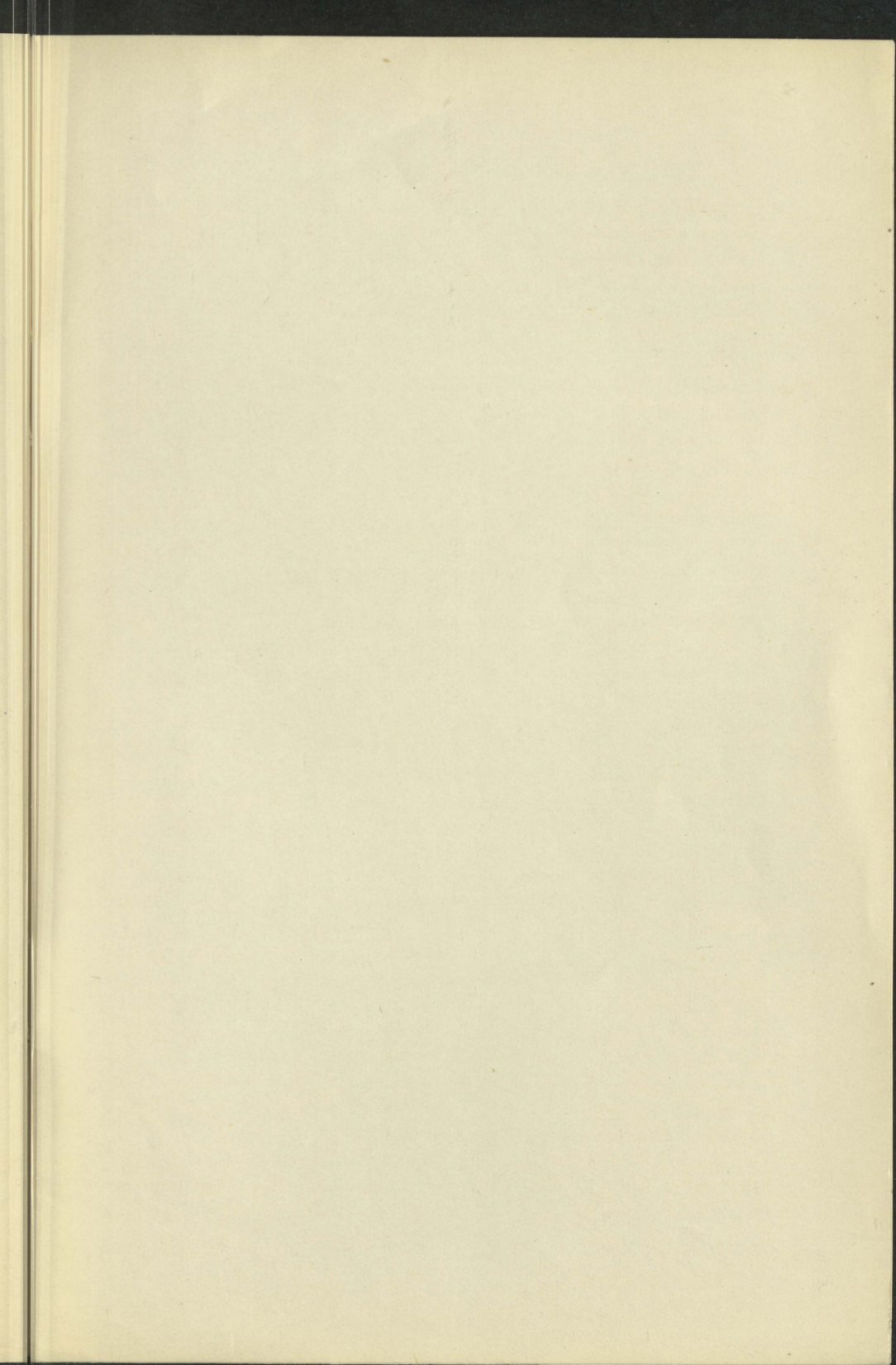
MR. BUZZARD, K.C., said: Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Mr. Alderman Cooper, ladies and gentlemen, I am quite sure you all feel a



deep disappointment on seeing a male figure rise before you on this occasion. After the eloquent speeches with which this vote of thanks has been proposed and seconded, I am sure you would have liked to hear Mrs. Threlfall herself say a few words in reply. (Hear, hear.) But her modesty and retiring nature have prompted her to ask me to act as her unworthy substitute. I am a mere voice, and nothing more, on this occasion. But though that is the capacity in which I appear before you, I will still, with your permission, retain some little personality for a moment by saying that I am deeply indebted to my sister-in-law for bringing me here to-day—though music is not, perhaps, my particularly strong line—to hear the beautiful concert to which we have listened this afternoon. (Cheers.) It seems to me to reflect the greatest credit upon the students, and also to throw a strong light on the admirable manner in which this great School of music is conducted. (Cheers.) As you have been kind enough to permit that personal observation, I propose to make one more, and that is to congratulate you, Sir Alexander, and the members of the Governing Body of the Royal Academy of Music, that they have at last, and after the struggles which you have described so eloquently, entered into the splendid home which the munificence of your patrons has been able to provide for you. (Cheers.) I need say very little for my sister-in-law in returning her thanks for the vote of thanks which you have accorded her, for I only speak her sentiments when I say that it has been a labour of love to her to come and do any slight service for this great Academy, which her husband so deeply loved and the welfare of which it was his constant effort to promote. (Cheers.) He was a dear friend of mine for more than forty years, and I cannot trust myself to speak about him to-day. He has been brought so vividly to my recollection to-day, and it would be sufficient for me, so far as any allusion to him is concerned, to refer to the most pathetic notice in the interesting address with which Sir Alexander Mackenzie has favoured us. I am sure that it is a gratification to my sister-in-law to have such a sweet and pleasant remembrance of him as your thanks to her to-day. It has been to her a labour of love, for which she desires no thanks, but if the occasion has been a successful one, I feel that she is, and she wishes me to say so, amply repaid for what she has done. (Cheers.)

The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.







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